

Curfew Ordinance- Fact Sheet



*The City's curfew ordinance prohibits minors (persons under the age of 18) from being in public places during **night time hours, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, 11p.m. to 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday.***

Holiday hours, regardless of the day of the week are 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. with the exception of Halloween and New Years Eve when its 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Explanation of the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance

- A minor (under the age of 18) commits an offense if he/she goes to, is at, or remains in any public place or is on the premises of any establishment within the City during curfew hours.
- A parent commits an offense if he/she knowingly permits the minor to go to, be at, or remain in a public place during curfew hours, or by insufficient control allows a minor to violate curfew.
- Curfew violations are punishable by a citation and a fine of up to \$250. Juveniles are referred to Juvenile Court, and adults to Municipal Court.

Exceptions to the Ordinance

- Being accompanied by a parent
- Being on an errand at the direction of a parent
- Being in a motor vehicle involved in interstate travel

- Being engaged in legal employment activity
- Being involved in an emergency
- Being on the sidewalk next to the minor's residence if there have been no complaints by neighbors
- Attending, going to, or returning home from, without any detour or unnecessary stop, an official school, religious, civic, or other activity supervised by adults.
- Exercising first amendment rights (such as freedom of religion, speech, assembly, etc.)
- Being married (and thus being an emancipated adult)
- Engaged in lawful commercial activity which has begun prior to curfew hours, as long as the minor proceeds directly home afterwards (i.e. going to a movie.

Purpose of the Ordinance

- To reduce incidence of juvenile crime and victimization
- To promote parental responsibility and accountability for the actions and activities of their children
- To foster livability and safety in Tuscaloosa neighborhoods and commercial areas
- To empower the community to collaboratively prevent crime and victimization
- To provide youth with opportunities for late hours activities and programs that build positive character traits